



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2706
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

WENDY L. WATANABE
CHIEF DEPUTY

July 5, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *tm*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HA'RE JOHN'S
PARADISE, INCORPORATED - HA'RE JOHN'S GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Ha're John's Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Ha're John's Paradise, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Ha're John's Group Home is a ten-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Ha're John's Group Home was providing services for eight DCFS children.

Ha're John's Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Ha're John's Group Home needs to provide a homelike environment, clean or paint the walls throughout the home as needed, clean the kitchen stove and oven, and remove all writing from the furniture in the children's bedrooms.

The Group Home also needs to include the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans and provide documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Further, the Group Home needs to provide a variety of meals and snacks to children and encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:bg

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Dr. Boniface Ofoegbu, Executive Director, Ha're John's Paradise Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Ha're John's Paradise, Incorporated
Ha're John's Group Home
3939 Slauson Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90043
Phone: (323) 295-2393
License Number: 191871747
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Ha're John's Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscape.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. However, the Group Home does not provide a home-like environment. The walls are bare with no pictures or decorations and some walls in the common living areas are dirty and need painting. Additionally, the kitchen oven and the stove are dirty.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. However, there is writing on the furniture in the bedrooms. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Ha're John's Group Home management:

- a. Provide a home-like environment including pictures and decorative items in the common living areas.**
- b. Clean or paint the walls throughout the home as needed.**
- c. Clean the kitchen oven and stove.**

- c. Remove all writing from the furniture in the bedrooms.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, comprehensive, include short and long term goals, and input from the child. However, the group does not include the placement workers as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the NSPs.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Ha're John's Group Home management:

- a. Include the placement workers as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
- b. Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Overall, children are not satisfied with the meals or snacks. Children report a lack of variety with the current menu plan.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

3. Ha're John's Group Home management provide children with a variety of satisfying meals and snacks that are healthy and well balanced.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. However, children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

4. Ha're John's Group Home management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

HA'RE JOHN'S PARADISE

(Group Home)
May 30, 2007

This corrective action plan (CAP) is a response to the recommendation made by the office of the ombudsman, county of Los Angeles, Department of Auditor Controller, in their review of Ha're John's Paradise group home. The Audit/review was conducted on April 17, 2007.

FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Generally the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home, however, the Group Home does not provide a home-like environment. The walls have no pictures or decoration and some walls in the common living areas are dirty and need painting. Additionally the kitchen oven and the stove are dirty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. Ha're John's Group Home Management ;
 - a. Provide landscape to the front and back yards such as hanging flowers, baskets and potted plants.
 - b. Provide a home-like environment, including pictures and decorative items in the common living areas.
 - c. Clean or paint walls through out the home as needed
 - d. Clean the kitchen oven and stove.
 - e. Remove all writing from the furniture in the bed rooms.

PLAN

Ha're John's Group Home Management will increase efforts to provide a home-like environment in compliance with the above recommendations. Provide landscape to the front and back yards of the home and provide a home-like environment to the living areas.

- iii. Clean or paint the walls through out the home
- iv. Clean the kitchen oven and stove.
- v. Remove all writing from the furniture in the bed rooms.

HA'RE JOHN'S PARADISE

IMPLEMENTATIONS: (Group Home)

Ha're John's Group Home Management has implemented the following:
Provided landscape to the front and back yards of the home with potted plants and

- i. provided a home-like environment to the home especially the common living areas
There are hanging pictures and decorative items in the common living areas.
- iii. Kitchen stove and oven have been cleaned.
- iv. All writing have been removed from the furniture in the bed rooms.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON

The director is responsible for ensuring that the above recommendations are implemented.

The Administrator and or the facility Manager will make daily tour of the home to make sure that the home is in compliance with the recommendations and report any deficiencies to the director for immediate correction.

All staff that cook and serve meals must ensure that the kitchen, stove and oven are kept clean after each cooking.

Ha're John's management has designed a work order request log for staff to report damages and needed repairs.

PROGRAM SERVICES

- 2. The needs and services plan are current, comprehensive, include short and long term goals and input from the child.
However the Group Home does not include the placement worker as part of the treatment team in the development of the NSPs.
Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a. Ha're John's Group home management;
Include the placement workers as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of needs and services plan.

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- b. Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

PLAN

Ha're John's management and treatment team have initiated and will hold monthly Needs and services meetings. These meetings will include the placement worker of each resident. These meetings will address each child's specific needs and these identified needs will be incorporated into the need and services plan.

Signed copies of all needs and services plan, and all Quarterly Reports, are faxed to each child's DCFS Social Worker for review and signature.

Ha're John's paradise Group Home management will ensure that placed children will review their Needs and Services Plan and receive their services as per their NSPs.

Ha're John's Paradise Group Home Management will ensure adequate documentation to verify that all children are receiving their services.

IMPLEMENTAION

Ha're John's Paradise Group Home Treatment team is holding monthly meetings with the placement case workers to address the specific needs of each child placed in the home.

All identified needs identified for each child are being incorporated into his Needs and Services plan.

All children's Needs and Services Plan are being reviewed and revised each 90days

All children's Quarterly reports are being reviewed and revised each 90 days

Weekly treatment notes are completed for each child

Each child is seen on a weekly basis for individual counseling sessions.

The following issues and concerns are being addressed on a regular basis, at least one time each month, or as need:

Regular contacts with child's school.

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Regular contacts with each child's ^(Group Home) family when appropriate and indicated.

Regular contacts with each child's DCFS (or probation) representative.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON

Ha're John's Group Home Administrator is responsible for organizing the weekly/ monthly NS meetings with the placement case workers. Paul Boyle, Ph.D., MFT. And Group home management will ensure that the above plan is implemented.

3. The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. However, children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ha're John's Group Home management encourages and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books

PLAN

Ha're John's Management will provide each child placed in the home with a photo album book and a camera. Each child will be encouraged and assisted to take photographs of self, friends, events and objects of interest to them.

IMPLEMENTATION

Every child in Ha're John's paradise Group Home has been provided with a photo album book and a camera with 27 exposures each. Each child is instructed and advised to take pictures of himself, his friend, objects of interest and interesting events. Ha're John's management will assist the children to print the photograph when they are completed also help them to organize their photo albums.

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RESPONSIBLE PERSON;^(Group Home)

Every staff who takes the children to activities will supervise them as they take their pictures.

Cameras are expected to be returned at the end of each month to the facility manager or administrator when the films are completed.

All staff will help the children to organize their photo albums/life bbbooks.

The facility manager will supervise the operation.

4. Overall, children are not satisfied with meals and snacks. Children report a lack of variety of food with the current menu plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ha're John's Group Home management provide children with a variety of satisfying meals and snack that are healthy and balanced.

PLAN

Ha're John's Group Home Management will endeavor to provide the children with a variety of satisfying meals and snack that meet the daily food and nutritional requirements for the age group of children in the group home as recommended by American deitary association, (ADA).

Ha're John's Management will seek the services of a nutritionist to review the current menu and make necessary adjustments and corrections, to provide balanced diet and adequate nutrition.

IMPLEMENTATION

Group home will satisfactorily implements the following:

Have a menu thah provide a healthy and balance meal plan
Provide good cookbooks and food guides
Fit in favorite foods into the meal plan
Provide the needed foods and the ingredients.

HA'RE JOHN'S PARADISE

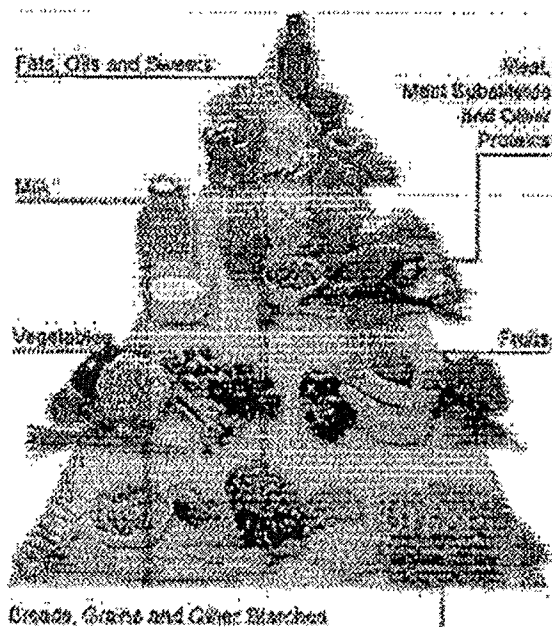
(Group Home)

Staff must ensure that meal plan is followed

Staff must ensure meals and snacks are serve at appropriate time

Periodically train staff on good nutrition and balance diet.

Both the administrator and the group manager will oversee this process.



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HA'RE JOHN'S PARADISE (Group Home)

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER
CHILDREN'S GROUP HOME OMBUDSMAN
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET ROOM 515-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766

June 13, 2007

Attention Candace Rhue

This corrective action plan is for the post audit recommendations you gave to our Group Home, after your review of the Group Home on April 17th 2007. The corrective action plan has addressed all the recommendations. For any questions, please contact our office at (232) 295-2393, (562) 673-0050 or (310) 941-2276. Our FAX is (323) 295-8069

Respectfully



Dr. Bonifacio Ofoegbu
Executive Director